

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02752 101150Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2752

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA SETTLEMENT: POSSIBLE FUTURE PROBLEMS

REF: (A) DAR 3616, (B) LONDON 15008

1. BASED ON VERY SKETCHY INFORMATION, WE HAVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT THREE PROBLEMS MAY PRESENT THEMSELVES
IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RHODESIA
SETTLEMENT.

2. TYING SANCTIONS TO PROGRESS IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL:

THE ZAMBIANS WERE APPARENTLY THE LEAST SANGUINE OF THE FRONTLINE
GOVERNMENTS OBASANJO VISITED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN INITIATIVE AND THEY PRESSED FOR THE TOUGHEST LINE
TOWARDS THE WEST IN RHODESIA. THEY APPARENTLY MADE A HARD
PITCH TO HIM
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N OIL SANCTIONS. OBASANJO GAVE THE IMPRESSION
THAT SOME SPECIFIC PLAN HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THEM. THIS,
TOGETHER WITH JIM SPAIN'S REPORT ON SALIM'S VIEWS (REFTEL A),
LEAD US HERE TO SUSPECT THAT THE AFRICANS IN NEW YORK MAY
INSIST ON TYING THEIR SUPPORT FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO APPOINT A SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE, TO SOME KIND OF ASSURANCE THAT IF SMITH DOES

NOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME, FURTHER SANCTIONS WILL BE APPLIED. THIS IS PURE SPECULATION ON OUR PART. WE BELIEVE THE AFRICANS WILL SUPPORT US IN THE SC BUT THEY MAY FORCE US TO MOVE SOONER THAN WE WOULD PREFER, AND CERTAINLY FASTER THAN THE BRITISH WOULD LIKE (REFTEL B) IN MAKING PUBLIC THREATS AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

3. PATRIOTIC FRONT COUNTERPROPOSALS: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ZANU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN WORKING SINCE EARLY IN THE YEAR ON SOME KIND OF A MAJOR PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE STRUCTURE OF A GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE. COMMITTEES WERE ASSIGNED WORK FUNCTIONS A NUMBER OF MONTHS AGO. THEIR REPORTS WERE RECENTLY SUBMITTED AND HAVE BEEN STUDIED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN A MEETING BEING HELD NEAR BEIRA IN MOZAMBIQUE DURING THE LAST WEEK. JOSHUA NKOMO AND A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE ZAPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TRAVELED TO MOZAMBIQUE A FEW DAYS AGO TO MEET WITH MUGABE. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS PREPARING A RATHER ELABORATE DOCUMENT CONTAINING COUNTERPROPOSALS TO THE ONE WE PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 1. IT IS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT MANY OF THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE RHODESIANS. WHILE WE WILL WANT TO TREAT ANY SUCH PROPOSALS SERIOUSLY, WE WILL ALSO WANT TO AVOID ALLOWING THEM TO SLOW DOWN THE MOMENTUM OF OUR OWN INITIATIVE. THE SOVIETS WILL CERTAINLY BACK ANY SUCH PROPOSALS STRONGLY AND THE FRONTLINE WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RESIST SUPPORTING THEM.

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4. MUZOREWA/SITHOLE RESISTANCE TO MILITARY LEVEL TALKS: MUZOREWA MADE CLEAR TO OWEN AND YOUNG HIS SUSPICION OF OUR PROPOSAL TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH MILITARY LEVEL TALKS

(REFTEL C). HE HAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THIS TO THE BRITISH REP IN SALISBURY. ON THE OTHER HAND, PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS WITH WHOM WE TALKED IN LUSAKA WERE ADAMANT THAT THESE TALKS BE CONDUCTED SOLELY BY PF REPS. WE WILL HAVE TO USE GREAT CARE AS WE MOVE TOWARDS THESE TALKS TO AVOID ALIENATING MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AND MAKING THEM MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SMITH'S BLANDISHMENTS FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. THIS WILL ARGUE FOR PERIODIC MEETINGS BY U.S. REPS WITH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE, PROBABLY IN SALISBURY. WE ASSUME THE BRITISH WILL ESTABLISH CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE TWO NATIONALIST LEADERS ALSO. THE SOONER RESIDENT COMMISSIONER DESIGNATE LORD CARVER CAN ENTER INTO ACTION IN THIS REGARD, THE BETTER FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.
LOW

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